

Glossary of Terms

Accord of December 15, 1994: In order to provide ecosystem protection for the Bay-Delta Estuary, representatives of the State and Federal governments and urban, agricultural and environmental interests agree to the implementation of a Bay-Delta protection plan through the California State Water Resource Control Board. This Accord describes changes to the California Urban Water Agency/Agricultural Water Users proposal as the base case for Bay-Delta protections, which are intended to be in force for three years, at which time they may be revised.

acre-feet (ac): a quantity or volume of water covering one acre to a depth of one foot; equal to 43,560 cubic feet or 325,851 gallons.

average year water demand: demand for water under average hydrologic conditions for a defined level of development.

cubic feet per second (cfs): a rate per unit of time a volume of water moves in a specific direction.

Decision 1485 operating criteria: standards for operating water project facilities under Water Right Decision 1485 regarding the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and Suisun Marsh, adopted by the State Water Resources Control Board, August 1978.

Delta exports: water exported from the Delta through the North Bay Aqueduct, Contra Costa Canal, the CVP at Tracy Pumping Plant, and the SWP, Harvey O. Banks Pumping Plant.

dissolved oxygen (DO): the oxygen dissolved in water, usually expressed in milligrams per liter, parts per million, or percent of saturation.

DWRDSM: DWR's operation planning model, used to estimate possible effects of increased demands, new facilities, or new standards on Delta operations.

DWRSIM: DWR's operation planning model, used to estimate possible effects of increased demands, new facilities, or new standards on SWP operations.

ebb tide: incoming tide.

flood tide: outgoing tide

endangered species: any plant or animal species or subspecies whose survival is threatened with extinction.

erosion: a combination of processes(e.g. wind or tidal action) in which the materials of the earth's surface are loosened, dissolved, or worn away and transported from one place to another by natural agents.

flashboards: Removable part of the barrier made of steel plates.

hydraulics: study of the practical effects and control of moving water, used to refer to the relationship between channel geometry and flow, velocity, and depth of water.

hydrology: general description of the movement of water in the atmosphere, on the earth surface, in the soil, and in the ground.

Delta inflow: the total streamflow entering the Delta from the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers, Yolo Bypass, and eastside streams.

maximum contaminant level (MCL): the highest concentration of a constituent on drinking water permitted under federal and State Drinking Water Act regulations.

megawatt: one million watts, a measure of power plant output.

outflow: the water flowing out of the delta into San Francisco Bay.

peat soils: acidic, humus-rich soils that contain a large amount of unconsolidated, semicarbonized, partially decomposed plant debris formed in an anaerobic, water saturated environment.

reclamation: extensive drainage of low-lying marshy lands for potential use.

reverse flow: the delta outflow condition existing when in-Delta diversions or high Delta exports in combination with low Delta inflow, cause net seaward flow to reverse so that San Francisco Bay water is moved towards the central and south Delta.
salinity: salt measured in ppt, TDS, EC units, or mg/l.

salinity intrusion: the movement of salt water into a body of fresh water. It can occur both in surface water and ground water.

sediment: soil or mineral transported by water and deposited in streams or other bodies of water.

seepage: the gradual movement of a fluid into, through, or from a porous medium.

seismicity: the frequency, intensity, and distribution of earthquake activity in a given area.

simulation: the application of mathematical representation or model to analyze a theoretical or physical process.

tidal flow: flow caused by tidal changes in stage and hydraulic gradient; describes the fluctuating flows in a channel caused by the tide.

total dissolved solids: a quantitative measure of the residual minerals dissolved in water that remains after evaporation of a solution.

turbidity: the reduction of light transmission in water caused primarily by the suspension of clays, silts, and other fine materials.

water demand: a monthly schedule of water deliveries added to a point of diversion or delivery in an operations model analysis.

water quality: used to describe the chemical, physical, and biological characteristics of water, usually in regard to suitability for a particular purpose or use.

water right: a legally protected right to take possession of water occurring in a natural waterway and to divert that water for beneficial use.

water year: a continuous 12-month period for which hydrological records are compiled and summarized. In California, it begins in October 1 and ends September 30 of the following year. For example, the 1991 water year begins Oct. 1, 1990 and ends Sept. 30, 1991.

wheeling: use of a pump facility to pump and convey water for another party.